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Peacebuilding and Reconstruction Polls

Eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo

Poll Report # 9, March 2017

(Data from December 2016)

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About the poll

Results for this poll are based on 3,879 interviews conducted in December 2016 with randomly selected adults in the following cities and territories:

Province / District	Territoire / Town	Sample
North Kivu	City of Goma	220
	City of Beni	268
	City of Butembo	299
	Beni	216 ¹
	Lubero	217 ²
	Masisi	208
South Kivu	City of Bukavu	301
	Idjwi	216
	Mwenga	220
	Shabunda	216
	Uvira	234
	Ville d'Uvira	333
Ituri	Ville de Bunia	290
	Aru	217
	Irumu	208
	Mahagi	216
	City of Goma	220
TOTAL		3 879

With additional interviews in three priority zones:

- Irumu (423 interviews)³
- Ruzizi (839)⁴
- Kitchanga (391)⁵

(Error margin of ± 5 percentage points at the 95% confidence level). Villages replaced due to insecurity: ¹ 9 out of 27 ; ² 3 out of 27 ; ³ 12 out of 39 ; ⁴ 9 out of 34 ; ⁵ 10 out of 49

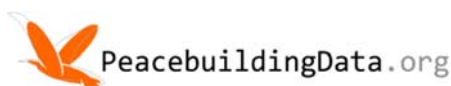
About the Project

This survey is the eighth in a series of surveys that will be conducted to provide reliable data and analysis on peace, security, justice and reconstruction in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. The project is a joint initiative of the Harvard Humanitarian Initiative (HHI) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), in collaboration with MONUSCO Civil Affairs. HHI is responsible for the data collection, the independent data analysis and report writing, in partnership with l'Université Libre des Pays des Grands Lacs, Université Catholique de Bukavu et Université de Bunia.

Publications :

- *Poll Report # 8, November 2016*
(Data from September 2016)
- *Poll Report # 7, August 2016*
(Data from June 2016)
- *Poll Report #6, June 2016*
(Data from March 2016)
- *Poll Report #5, January 2016*
(Data from December 2015)
- *Poll Report #4, November 2015*
(Data from September - October 2015)
- *Poll Report #3, August 2015*
(Data from June-July 2015)
- *Poll Report #2, June 2015*
(Data from March-May 2015)
- *Poll Report #1, March 2015*
(Data from December 2014)
- *Baseline, May 2014*
(Data from December 2013)

For more information, visit www.peacebuildingdata.org/drc or contact info@peacebuilding.org



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With support from

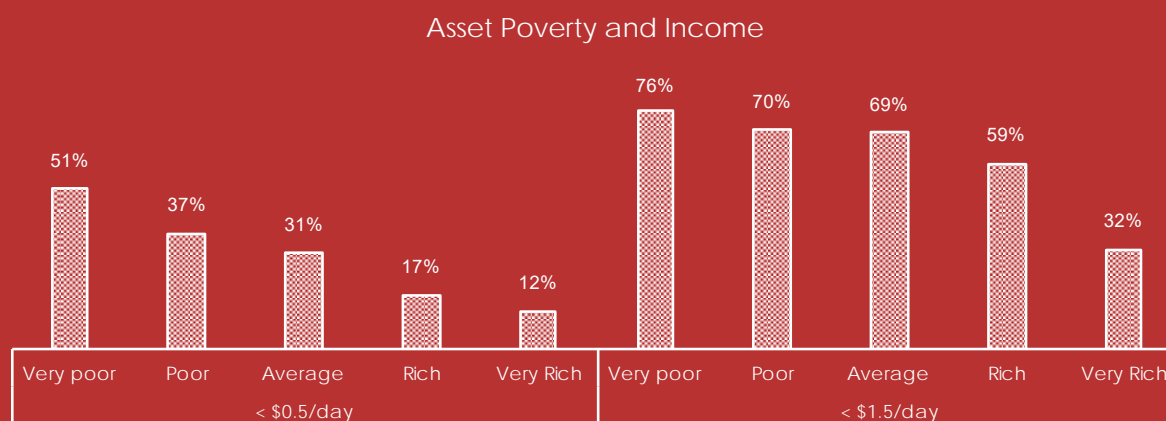


Poverty is unevenly distributed across territories, with a higher concentration in priority zones.

This ninth poll report takes an in depth look at the poverty of households in Eastern Congo. The wealth of households is estimated by evaluating possession of ten non-productive assets, such as tables, chairs, mobile phones, etc. An analysis of principal components (APC) was used to calculate a global score of wealth for 36,000 households. APC is a multivariate statistical method used to reduce the number of variables in a dataset to a smaller number of "dimensions". In this case, the 10 variables corresponding to each asset have been reduced to a single index reflecting the distribution of these assets. This score served as the basis for identifying five distinct quintiles corresponding to households that are:

- Very asset poor (23% of households interviewed in September and December 2016)
- Asset poor (19%)
- Neither asset poor nor asset rich (16%)
- Asset Rich (29%)
- Very asset rich (13%)

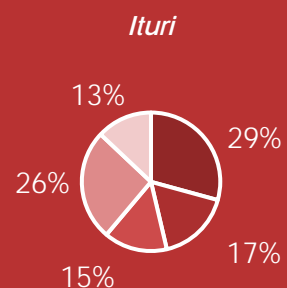
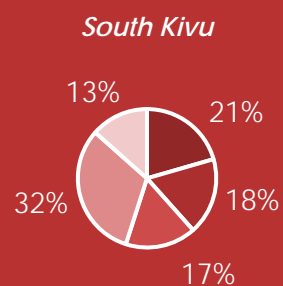
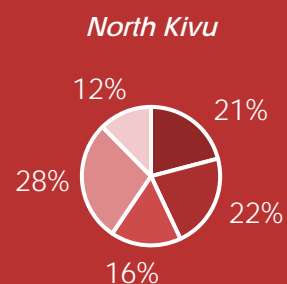
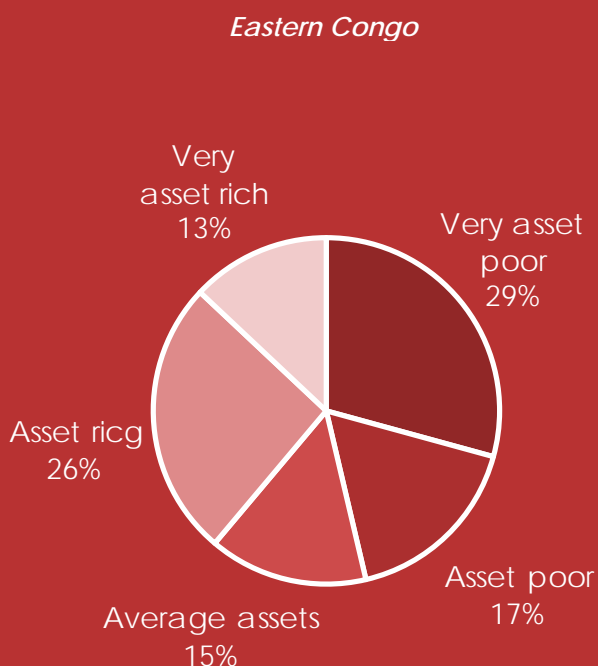
It should be noted that no weighting was used and that this approach favors urban areas where households generally possess more assets than in rural areas, even if they may be poorer in practice. These results are not comparable to studies on wealth in the Eastern Congo that have used different methods. The approach used here allows for a simpler and more reliable measure of household poverty than one based on incomes and expenses although there is a strong association between asset wealth and income reported by respondents. More than half of all persons who are the most asset poor have incomes below 50 cents per day (in US dollars, estimated on the bases of monthly income), compared to 12% among the households that are richest in assets. Nonetheless, almost one out of three of the richest households reports earnings below 1.50 USD per day, illustrating the highly relative nature of wealth in this context.



Data from December 2016

The distribution of households across the five quintiles of wealth does not vary significantly between the three provinces and average for Eastern Congo in general. Except for Ituri, the largest group is that of households “rich in assets”, closely followed by households that are “very asset poor”. In Ituri, almost half of all households are either asset poor or very asset poor (46%) compared to 43% in North Kivu and 39% in South Kivu. Households that are asset rich are much more common in South Kivu than elsewhere in Eastern DRC.

Poverty by Province



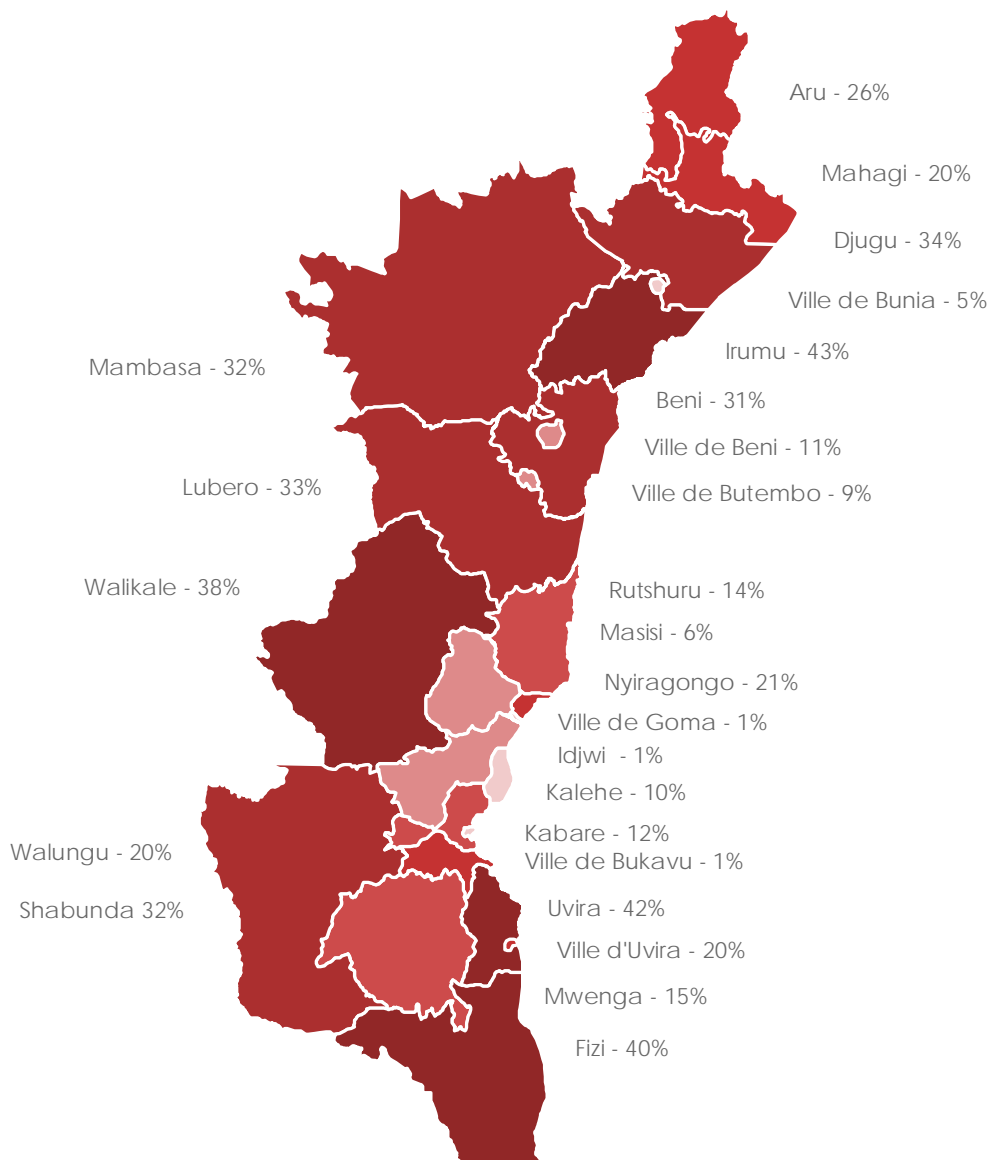
Data from December 2016

A more granular analysis, at the territoire level reveals that households are more frequently asset rich in urban areas. Only 1% of households are very asset poor in the cities of Bukavu and Goma, whereas more than one third of households are in the same quintile for the territories of Djugu (34%), Irumu (43%), Mambasa (32%), Beni (31%), Lubero (33%), Walikale (38%), Uvira (42%), and Shabunda (32%). Poverty, as determined by asset possession is often accompanied by poverty based on monetary income. For example, in Walikale, more than half of the people interviewed reported having no monthly income. This is also the case in Walungu, where one out of five households is very asset poor

Although urban households are more frequently considered asset rich, poverty, even in terms of assets, can still be observed. In Bunia, the provincial capital of Ituri, more than 15% of households are poor or

very poor in assets compared to 4% and 6% in Goma and Bukavu respectively. Asset poor households are also relatively common in urban areas of the 'Grand Nord' area of North Kivu. In the towns of Beni and Butembo, 11% and 9% of households are in the category 'very asset poor'. Of all urban areas where the survey is conducted, the city of Uvira in South Kivu contains the highest percentage of households that are very asset poor, with 20% of households belonging to this category – a number that is much higher than in any other city in the region.

Poverty by Territory (% households that are very asset poor)



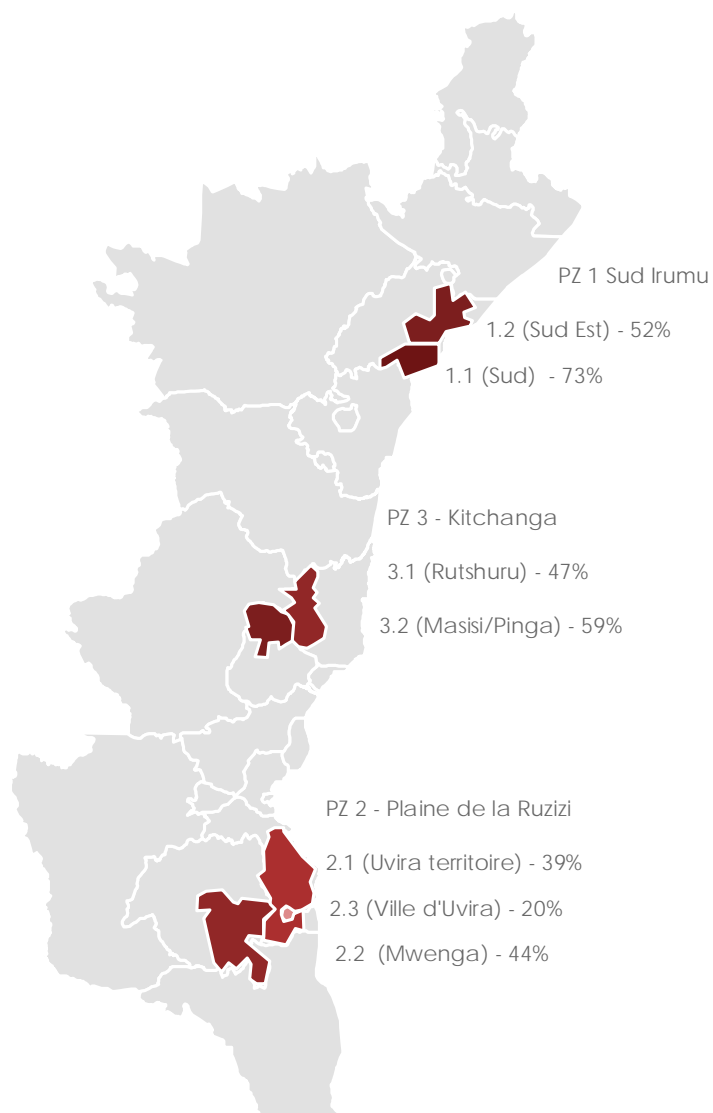
Data from December 2016

Since June 2016, polls have been regularly conducted in a series of priority zones. Results from December 2016 demonstrate that poverty is much more common in priority zones compared to surrounding territories. For example, although 43% of households are considered very asset poor in the territory of Irumu, more than half of all households (52%) are considered very asset poor in the sub

priority zone located in the south east of South Irumu, and more than two out of three households (73%) in the sub priority zone located in southern South Irumu.

Similarly, although only 14% of households in Rutshuru are considered very poor in assets, 47% are considered very asset poor in the sub priority zone of Kitchanga – Chefferie de Bwito ; 49% of households in the sub-zone Masisi/Pinga of Kitchanga priority zone are considered very asset poor compared to 6% for the territory of Masisi. Finally, in the Plaine de la Ruzizi priority zone, the percentage of households that are very asset poor in the sub zone of Mwenga is much higher than that of the overall territoire (44% v. 15%).

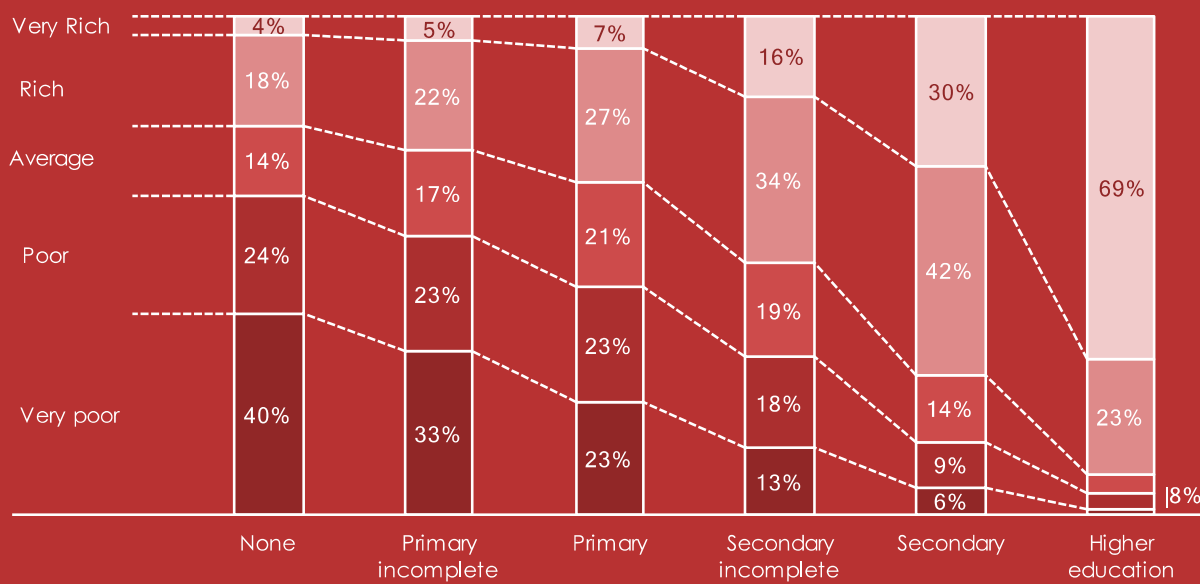
Poverty in priority zones (% households which are very asset poor)



Data from December 2016

An analysis of demographic factors linked to poverty reveals no significant differences along gender lines or with regards to age. However, the level education attained by a person impacts the level of poverty. 16% of the population sampled reported having no formal education. Amongst them, 40% are considered very asset poor and almost two thirds are either asset poor or very asset poor (64%). In contrast, less than half of respondents having completed their primary education are considered poor or very poor (46%). This percentage drops to 15% or less for those who have at least completed their secondary education.

Asset Poverty and Education

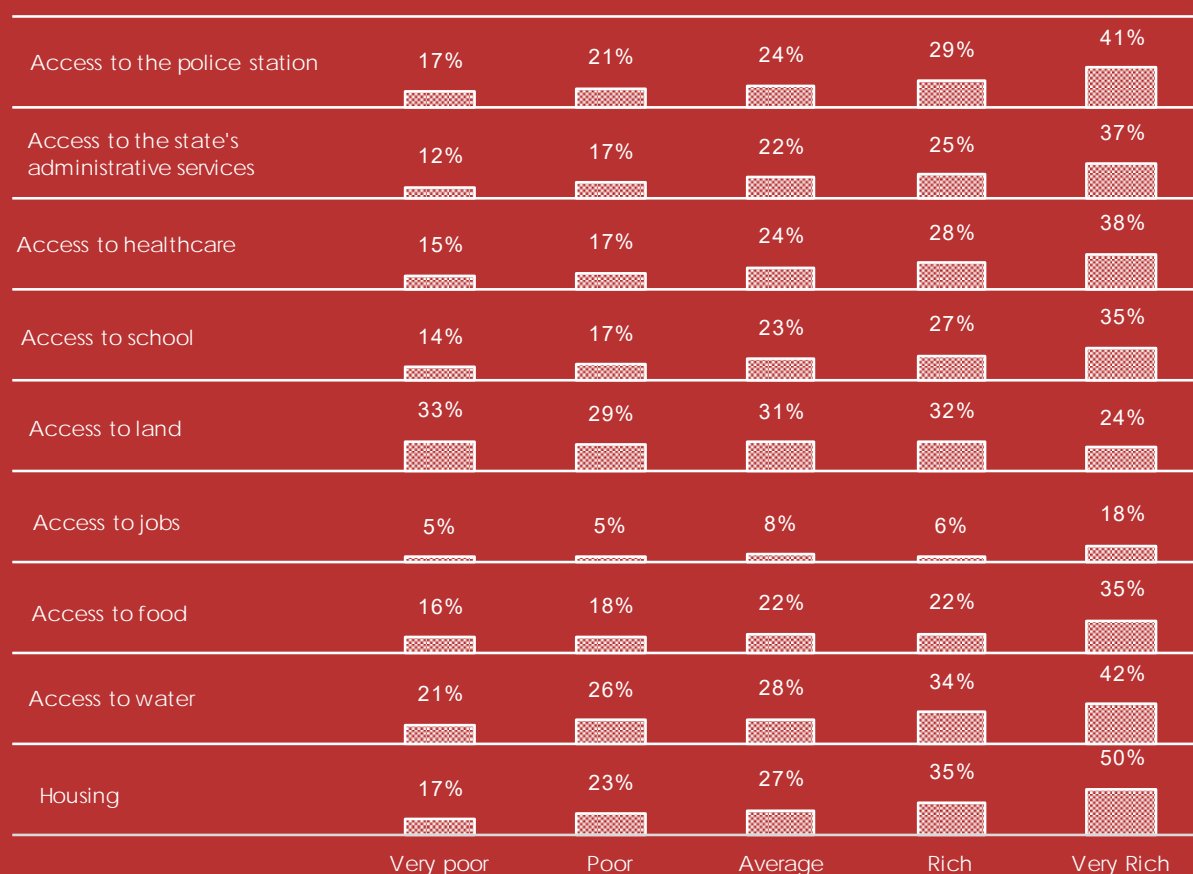


Data from December 2016

Poverty is linked to inequalities in access to basic needs and services.

Despite efforts aimed at improving access to basic needs and services for the most vulnerable populations, inequalities between groups with different levels of wealth are significant. Compared to the poorest group, people with the most wealth judged their access positively (good – very good) two to three times more frequently for services such as health care and education, as well as basic needs such as water and food. The only exception was in the case of access to land, reflecting the fact that poverty is much more concentrated in rural areas. Inequalities in access to services and basic needs are not exclusively associated to financial constraints. Obstacles such as geographic access in rural areas as well as the level of education are also important determinants of such uneven access.

Asset poverty and access to basic needs and services (% good – very good access)

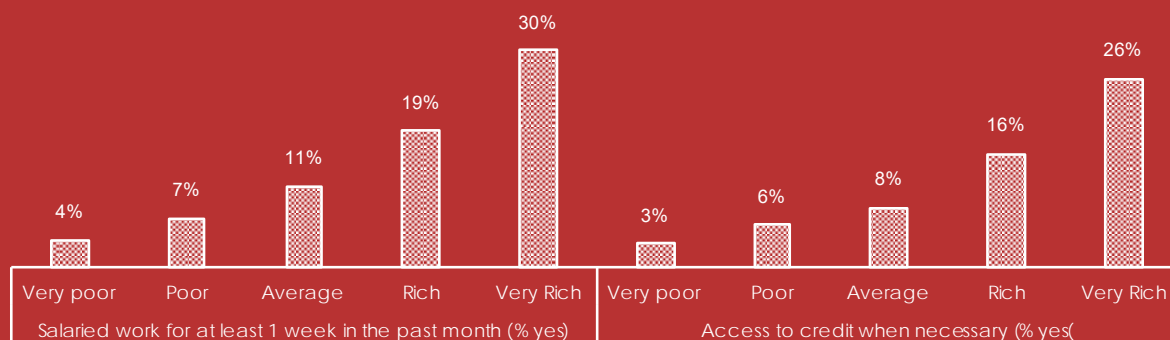


Data from December 2016

There is also a strong association between economic opportunities and poverty. Amongst the poorest, only 4% reported having had a salaried job for at least a week during the past month, compared to 30% amongst the group richest in assets. This trend can also be observed for access to credit. Whereas more than a quarter of those considered very asset rich report having access to credit in case of

need, only 3% of those considered very asset poor reported the same. The link between poverty and economic opportunities could also be explained by the fact that the poorest people more frequently reside in rural areas where infrastructure, including banks and financial institutions, are more scarce.

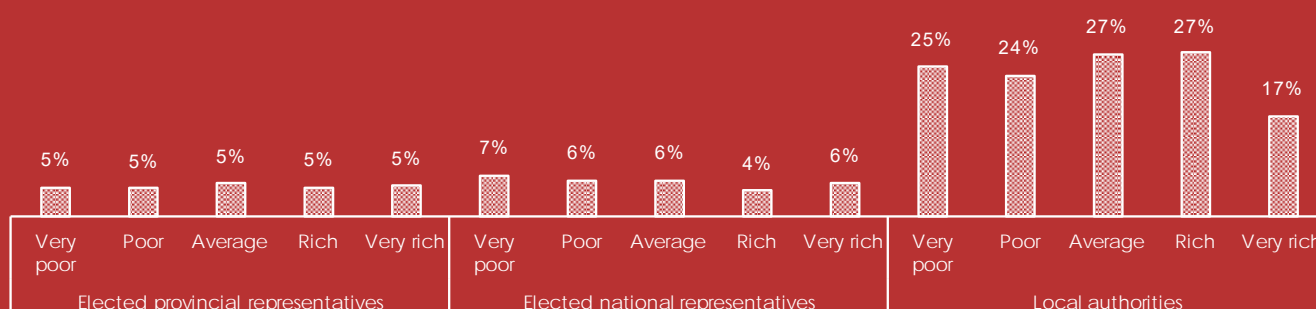
Asset poverty and economic opportunities



Data from December 2016

The findings from this survey do not provide sufficient evidence to establish a clear causal relationship between access to economic opportunities and poverty. However, by analyzing the link between the lack of economic opportunities, inequalities in access to services and poverty as determined by possession of assets, strong correlations can be observed that point towards a vicious cycle in which the poorest are deprived of access to basic needs and services as well as economic opportunities, thus reinforcing inequalities between rich and poor. This can in turn fuel discontent amongst the population, as suggested in recent analysis.¹ It should nonetheless be observed that the ability of authorities to represent the interest of the population is largely viewed negatively, regardless of the socio-economic class of a person.

Asset poverty and perception of authorities representing the interest of the population (% good – very good)



Data from December 2016

¹ Hoebeke, H., Cintu, P.K.; Hungry for change: the economics underlying DR Congo's political crisis; African Politics Now; 12 December 2016; disponible en ligne: <http://africanarguments.org/2016/12/12/hungry-for-change-the-economics-underlying-dr-congos-political-crisis/>

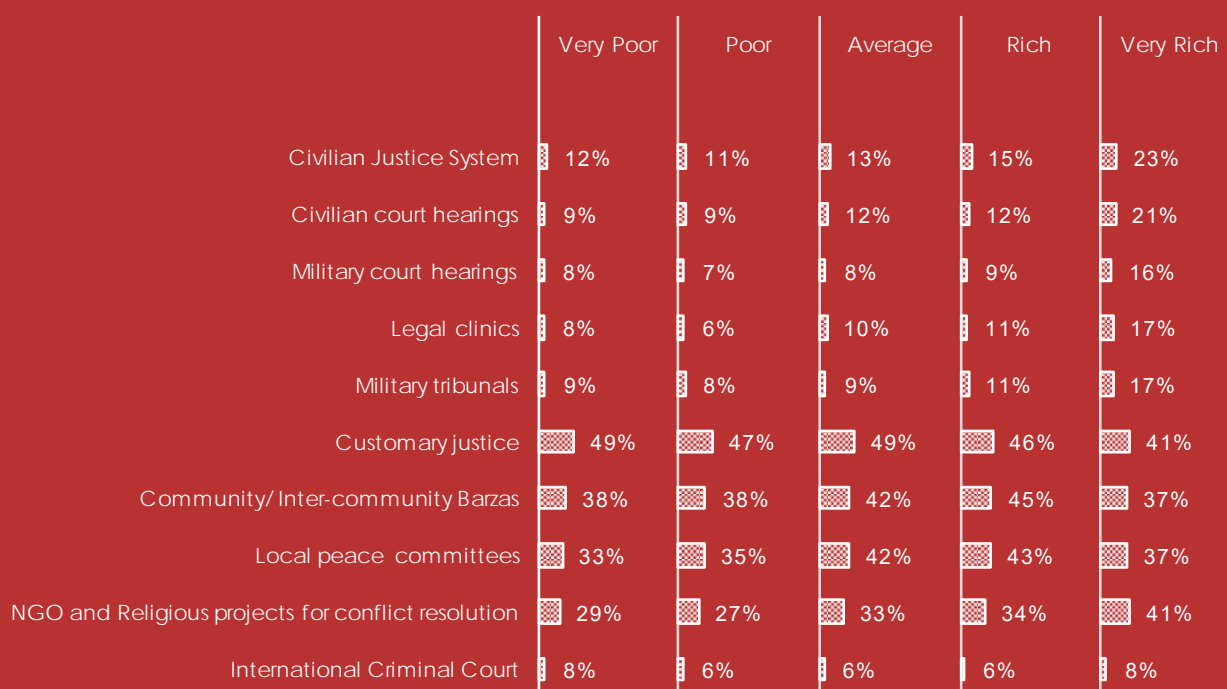
Justice for the rich?

As is the case with services, access to the formal justice systems, both civilian and military, is judged more positively by persons belonging to more well-off socio economic groups. Once again, this reality may reflect a bias towards urban areas where asset rich people can more frequently be found, and where judiciary institutions are based. However, it is worth noting that this trend can also be observed in the cases of court hearings and legal clinics which are typically decentralized.

With regards to local and informal justice systems, their access is viewed similarly across all socio-economic groups. Generally, access to informal justice mechanisms, such as customary justice, barzas and local peace committees, are much more accessible, for those who are richer, as well as among the poorest. Some mechanisms, notably customary justice, are more frequently judged as accessible among the poorest than is the case among the richest groups.

The analysis of access to justice mechanisms relative to poverty reveals that although not extremely acute, there are cleavages between rich and poor with regards to justice in Eastern Congo. Although justice is a public good, which should in theory be accessible to all, most formal institutions are in fact inaccessible. This is reflected in the fact that 68% of the population believes that the fees paid to justice institutions ought to be reduced.

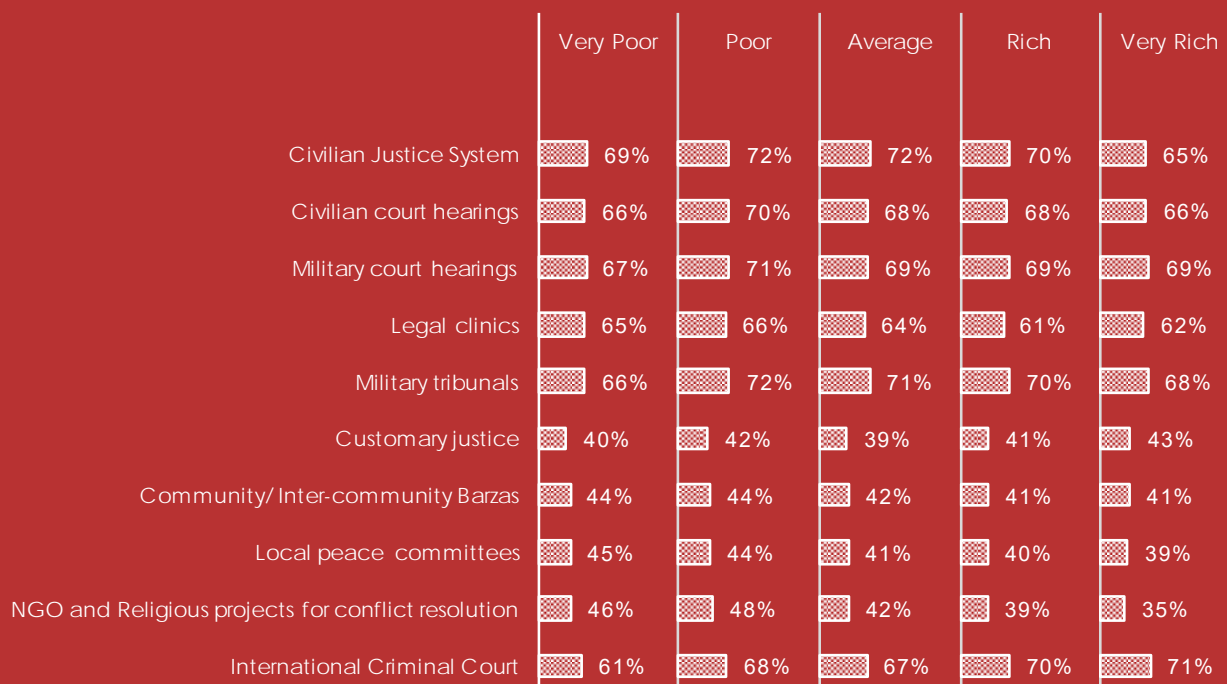
Asset poverty and access to justice (% good – very good access)



Data from December 2016

Although access to the various justice mechanisms appear to be somewhat dependent on a person's relative wealth, the level of mistrust does not vary significantly across different socio-economic groups, except with regards to the International Criminal Court (ICC), for which mistrust can more frequently be observed amongst people who are very asset rich. It is possible that people who are asset poor less commonly report mistrust in the ICC because they are less knowledgeable about this justice mechanism in the first place.

Asset poverty and trust in justice (% little – very little trust)

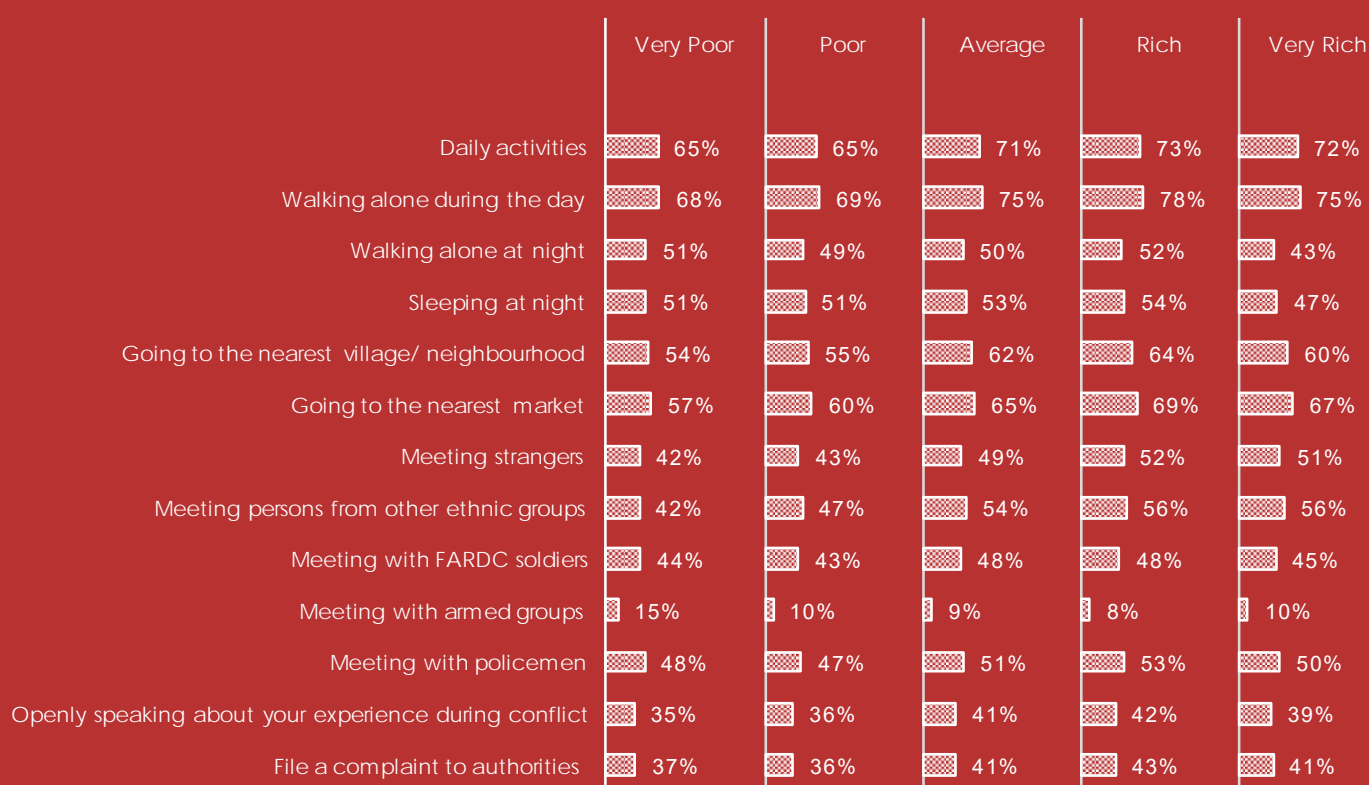


Data from December 2016

Rich and Poor – All are affected by insecurity and violence.

Overall, people's feeling of safety does not seem to be impacted by whether they are poor or not. Whereas people with the most assets feel slightly safer conducting their daily activities and walking alone during the day, compared to those who are poor or very poor in assets, they nonetheless feel comparatively less safe walking alone at night. People belonging to more well off groups more frequently report high levels of safety when meeting strangers or people from other ethnic groups. This trend could be more plausibly explained by the higher level of education of a person than his/her wealth. Education may also be the reason why people who are asset rich more frequently expressed feeling safe when speaking about their experiences during the conflict as well as when they filed complaints vis-à-vis authorities. However, people in the asset poor or very asset poor categories were less likely to report high levels of insecurity when encountering armed groups. This is possibly because armed groups are often well integrated amongst rural populations where people are more commonly poor.

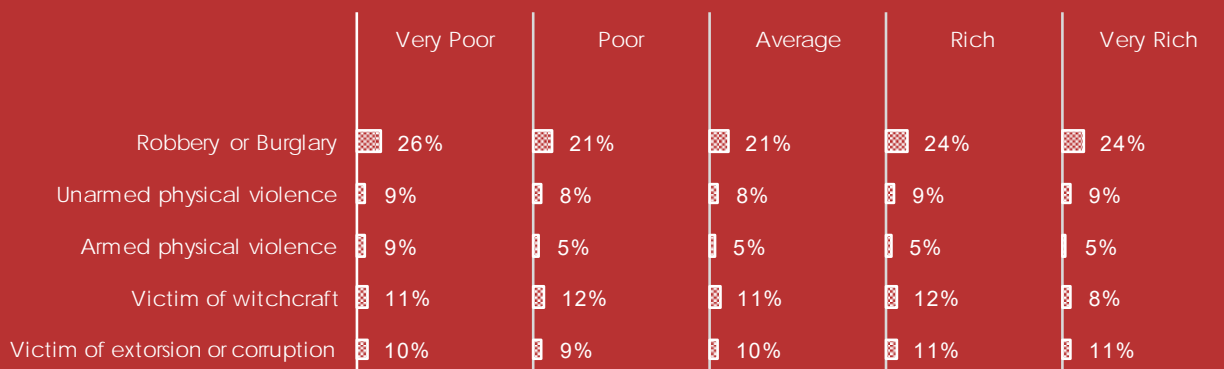
Asset poverty and sense of security (% safe-very safe)



Data from December 2016

As with insecurity, crimes do not appear to affect one socio-economic group more often than another – the incidence of various types of crimes over the past year was uniform across the five quintiles of asset wealth.

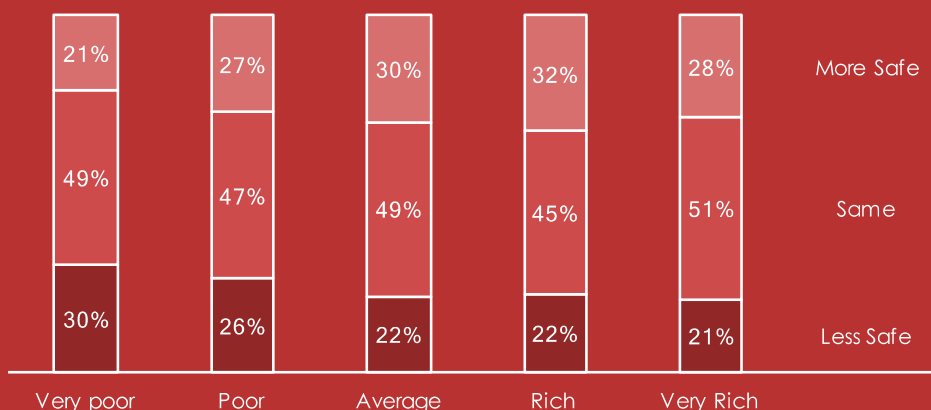
Asset poverty and criminal incidents (% having personally experienced crimes over the past year)



Data from December 2016

Whereas the feeling of safety and incidence of criminality were more or less similar for both rich and poor groups, the latter more frequently reported a deterioration in their security over the past year. This trend may reflect a deterioration of security conditions in areas where people are already very poor, including in priority zones.

Asset poverty and sense of security compared to the past year

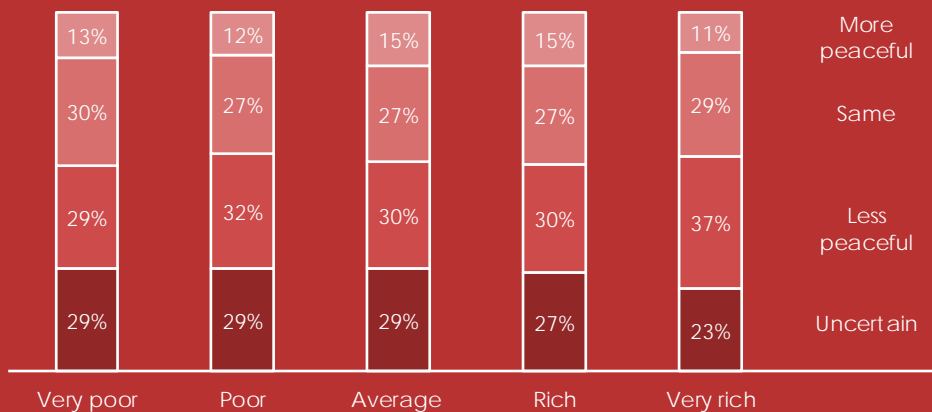


Data from December 2016

Although people who are poor and very asset poor more frequently reported a deterioration in their security over the past year, they were not necessarily more pessimistic concerning the prospect of peace in the future. In fact, whereas 37% of people in the richest quintile believe that their village or

'quartier' (in urban areas) will be less peaceful in a year compared to the present, only 29% of those in the poorest quintile believe that this will be the case. Although the percentage of people who reported believing that their respective localities will be more peaceful in a year is relatively low for all groups, it is still worth highlighting that people's hopes of future peace appears unaffected by their level of wealth.

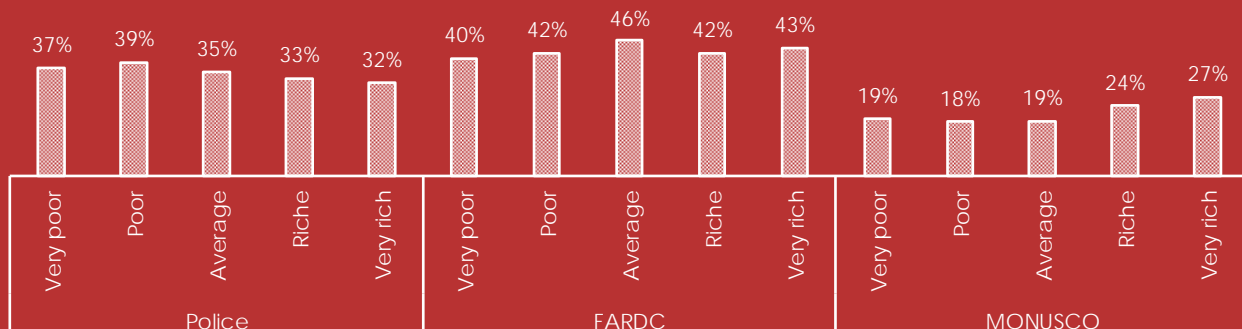
Asset poverty and perception of future peace



Data from December 2016

Similarly, trust in security actors to ensure security is somewhat uniform across the five quintiles of poverty, except with regards to MONUSCO. People belonging to the richest quintile expressed having trust in MONUSCO more frequently than people in the poorest groups. This result does not reflect an urban bias: trust in MONUSCO is not greater in cities compared to rural areas. However, some territories with a high level of asset poverty, such as Beni and Lubero, are also areas where people rarely expressed trust in MONUSCO.

Asset poverty and trust in security actors (% yes)



Data from December 2016

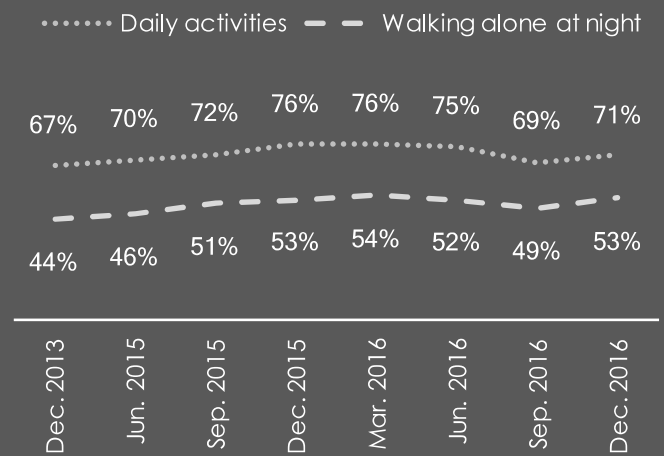
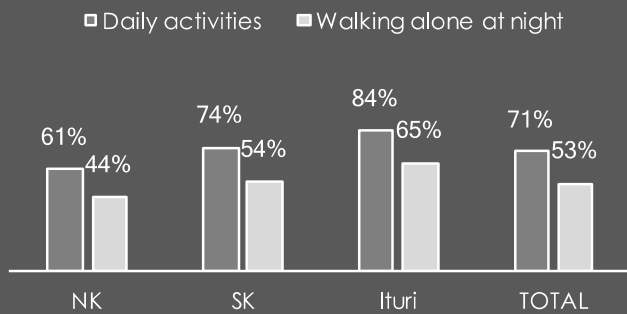
KEY GLOBAL INDICATOR (DEC. 2016)

The following indicators are monitored in all the polls. Provincial averages may mask significant differences between territories - detailed results by territories are available on the www.peacebuildingdata.org site. Aggregate statistics are based on the latest poll available in each territory.

SENSE OF SECURITY (% safe – very safe)

Latest data (September - December 2016)

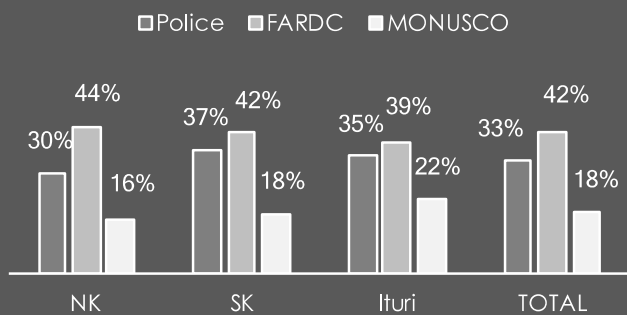
Regional trends (NK, SK, Ituri)



PERCEPTION OF SECURITY ACTORS (% trust for security)

Latest data (September - December 2016)

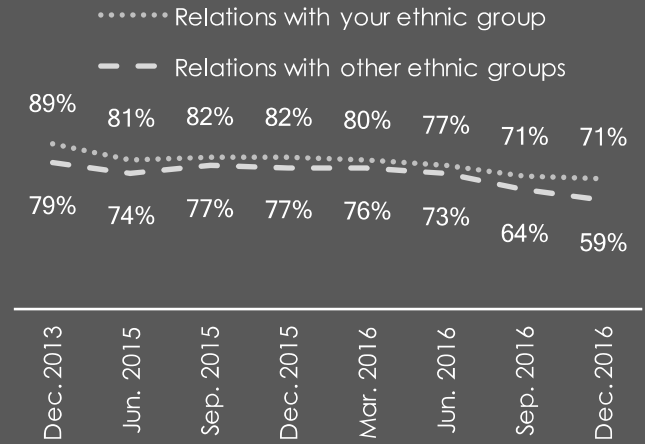
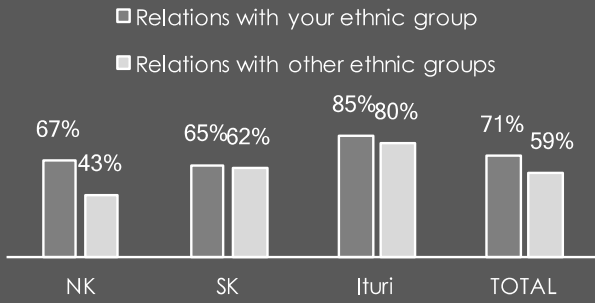
Regional trends (NK, SK, Ituri)



PERCEPTION OF RELATIONS WITHIN AND ACROSS ETHNIC GROUPS (% good – very good)

Latest data (September - December 2016)

Regional trends (NK, SK, Ituri)



TRUST IN JUSTICE (% little – none)

Latest data (September - December 2016)

Regional trends (NK, SK, Ituri)

